

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PC-15 CU-04 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 T-03 OMB-01

EUR-25 NIC-01 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 009085

R 091204 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8661
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJ: NIGERIAN STUDENTS BACK ON CAMPUS

RE F: LAGOS 1665

SUMMARY: UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL,
BUT DESPITE GOVT ASSURANCES THAT NO FINAL DECISION TAKEN
ON NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (NYSC), POTENTIAL STILL
EXISTS FOR MORE CONFRONTATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE ADAMANT DECLARATIONS BY STUDENT LEADERS OF
CONTINUING OPPOSITION NYSC, NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE
RETURNED TO RELATIVELY NORMAL LIFE.
 2. NUMBER OF FMG OFFICIALS , INCLUDNG GOWON AND EDUCATION
COMMISSIONER EKE, HAVE INSISTED NO FINAL DECISION TAKEN
ON FORM NYSC AND THAT GOVT REMAINS OPEN FOR SUGGESTIONS
FROM ALL QUARTERS. STUDENT CLAIM THAT NAIRA 60 PER MONTH
WAS INTENDED STIPEND CHARACTERIZED AS " RIDICULOUS" AND
" UNFORTUNATE ERROR."
 3. AT SAME TIME GOWON WARNED IN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE
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MARCH 3 THAT FMG WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY VIOLENCE. HE REITERATED DEFINITE COMMITMENT CREATE NYSC, BUT OMITTED REFERENCE TO BEGINNING DATE.

4. COMMENT: OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON ABSENCE FINAL DECISION PROBABLY CORRECT. HOWEVER, WIDESPREAD STUDENT DOUBTS OF TRUTH FMG STATEMENTS TO THIS EFFECT COMBINED WITH SKEPTICISM THAT GOVT, IN ANY CASE, WILLING CONSULT THEM ON NYSC LEAVES SITUATION UNSETTLED WITH POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE CONFRONTATIONS. APPARENTLY UNFOUNDED RUMORS, STILL BELIEVED BY SOME, OF STUDENT DEATHS IN DEMONSTRATION ABU FURTHER AGGRAVE SITUATION. OTHER THAN SOME LIMITED NEWSPAPER SUPPORT, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE BACKING FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE OWN RANKS AND CONTINUE BELIEVE THAT ANY NEW CONFRONTATIONS WILL BE MANAGEABLE BY FMG (SEE REFTEL). GOWONS OMISSION BEGINNING DATE FOR NYSC STRENGTHENS OR BELIEF CORPS WILL NOT START NEAR FUTURE.

DECON 3-9-74

REINHARDT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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IBADAN
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